DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 444 749 PS 028 845

AUTHOR	Lopez, Elias
TITLE	Who Is Least Likely To Attend Pre-School?
INSTITUTION	California State Library, Sacramento. California Research Bureau.
PUB DATE	1999-11-00
NOTE	9p.; Prepared at the Request of Assemblymember Kerry Mazzoni, Chair of the Assembly Education Committee.
AVAILABLE FROM	Web site: http://www.library.ca.gov (under CRB Reports).
PUB TYPE	Collected Works - Serials (022)
JOURNAL CIT	CRB Note; v6 n6 Nov 1999
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	Asian Americans; Attendance; Blacks; Census Figures; Comparative Analysis; *Economic Factors; *Enrollment; *Enrollment Influences; Hispanic Americans; Low Income Groups; Minority Groups; Preschool Children; *Preschool Education; *Racial Differences; *Student Characteristics; Tables (Data); Whites
IDENTIFIERS	African Americans; Current Population Survey; Latinos

ABSTRACT

This paper provides demographic information on California preschool-age children and their preschool attendance. Data sections, with tables, are: (1) "Number of Children Not in Pre-School or Kindergarten"; (2) "Latino, Asian, and African American Children Are Less Likely To Have Gone to Pre-School"; and (3) "Children of Low Income Families Are Less Likely To Be Enrolled in Pre-School." The data show that minority children are far less likely to go to pre-school. This paper also shows that attending pre-school is a function of family income, since enrollment rates go up with family income. The analysis is based on the Census Bureau's 1997 October Current Population Survey on school enrollment. (EV)

Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made
from the original document.

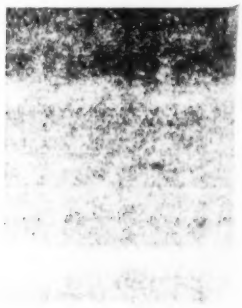
CRB

ED 444 749

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)
X This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.
☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.
• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

SCOPE OF INTEREST NOTICE
The ERIC Facility has assigned this document for processing to:
In our judgment, this document is also of interest to the Clearinghouses noted to the right. Indexing should reflect their special points of view.
PS
UD

CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY
FOUNDED 1850



Who is Least Likely to Attend Pre-School?

Elias Lopez, Ph.D.

California Research Bureau
900 N Street, Suite 300
P.O. Box 942837
Sacramento, CA 94237-0001
(916) 653-7843 phone
(916) 654-5829 fax

Prepared at the Request of Assemblymember Kerry Mazzoni, Chair of the Assembly Education Committee

PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE AND DISSEMINATE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY
Roger Dunstan
TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)
1

NOVEMBER 1999

CRB Note, Vol. 6, No. 6

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

PS 028045

Internet Access

This paper is also available through the Internet at the California State Library's home page (***www.library.ca.gov***) under CRB Reports.

Table of Contents

WHO IS LEAST LIKELY TO ATTEND PRE-SCHOOL? 1

- Introduction 1
- Number of Children Not in Pre-School or Kindergarten 2
- Latino, Asian, & African-American Children Are Less Likely to Have Gone to Pre-School 3
- Children of Low Income Families Are Less Likely to be Enrolled in Pre-School 4

Charts

Chart 1: Children Ages 3 to 5 Not in Pre-K or in Kindergarten by Ethnic Group 2

Chart 2: Percent of Children in Kindergarten Who Attended Pre-School the Year Before 3

Chart 3: Children Ages 3 to 5 Not in Pre-K or Kindergarten by Income Group 4

Chart 4: Percent of Children Ages 3 to 5 Not in Pre-K or in Kindergarten by Income Group 5

Who is Least Likely to Attend Pre-School?

Introduction

This paper provides estimates on the number of children who are of pre-school age. In addition, it gives information on their ethnicity and family income. The following data show that minority children are far less likely to go to pre-school. This paper also shows that attending pre-school is a function of family income, since enrollment rates go up with family income.

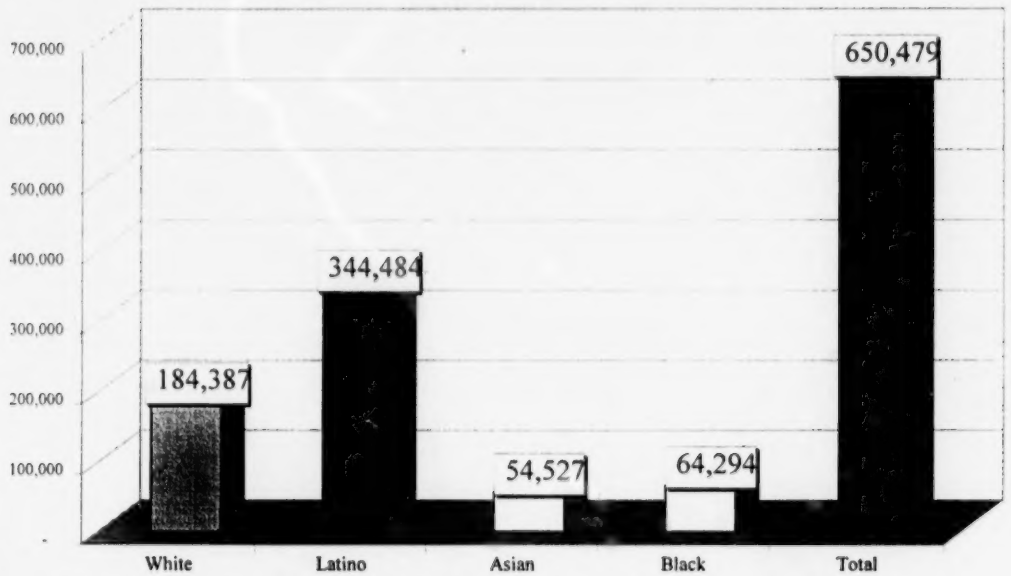
The analysis is based on the Census Bureau's 1997 October Current Population Survey on school enrollment. As with any survey, estimates are subject to sampling error.

Number of Children Not in Pre-School or Kindergarten

According to the 1997 October Current Population Survey, there are approximately 650,000 children, ages three to five, who are neither in pre-school nor in kindergarten. Of these, 28 percent are White, 53 percent are Latino, 8 percent are Asian, and 10 percent are African-American. Estimates for the total number of children are provided in the chart below:

Chart 1

Children Ages 3 to 5 Not in Pre-K or in Kindergarten by Ethnic Group (1997)



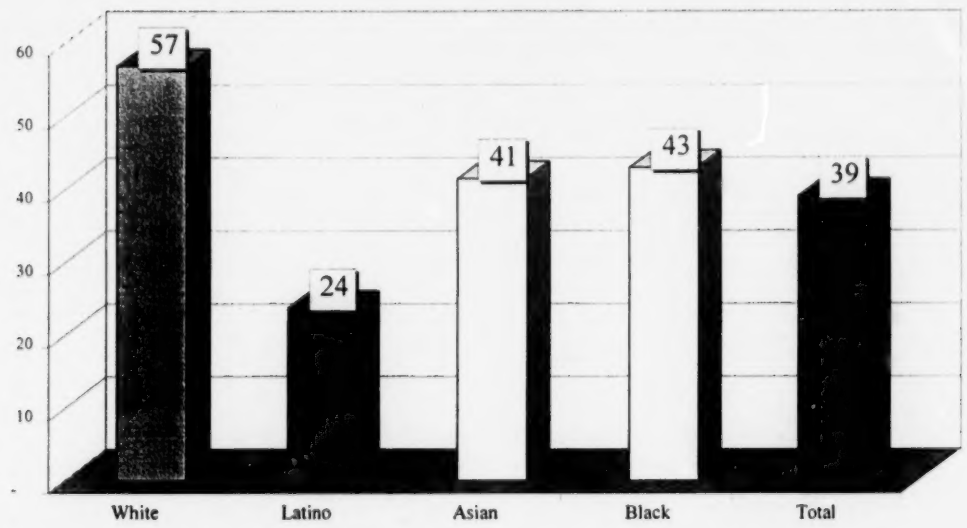
Source: California Research Bureau of the California State Library using the 1997 October Current Population Survey.

Latino, Asian, & African-American Children Are Less Likely to Have Gone to Pre-School

Currently California has around half a million children in kindergarten. Of those in kindergarten, how many went to pre-school the year before? The chart below shows that 57 percent of White children in kindergarten attended pre-school the year before. Asians and Blacks were less likely to attend pre-school[1] with 41 and 43 percent attending pre-school, respectively. Latino children were even less likely to attend pre-school. Only 24 percent attended pre-school.

Chart 2

Percent of Children in Kindergarten Who Attended Pre-School or Nursery School the Year Before, by Ethnic Group(1997)



Source: California Research Bureau of the California State Library using the 1997 October Current Population Survey. Estimates for this graph on Asians and Blacks are based on a small sample size and thus may be unreliable.

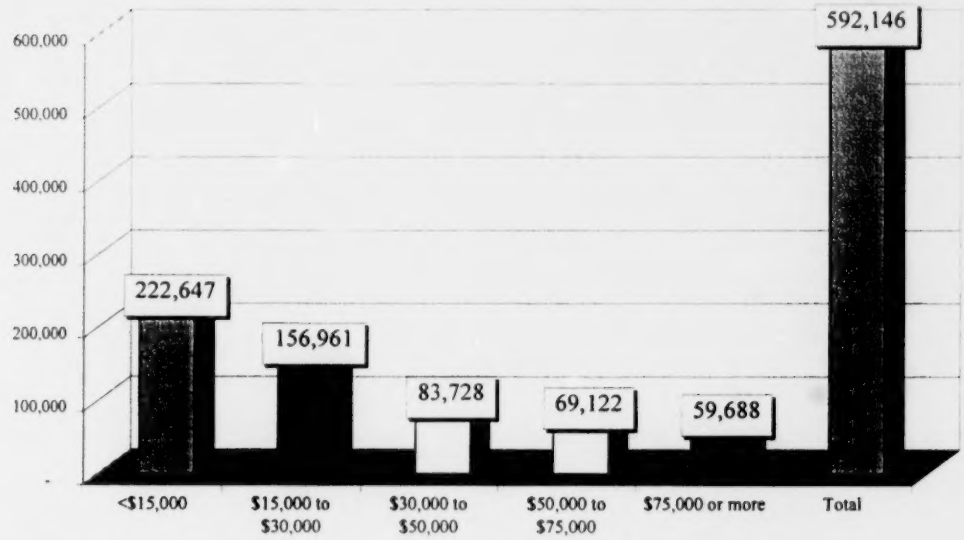
[1] The percentages for Asians and Blacks are based on small sample sizes and thus may be unreliable.

Children of Low Income Families Are Less Likely to be Enrolled in Pre-School

In addition to ethnicity, family income is a strong predictor for whether or not a child attends pre-school. Thirty-eight percent of the children not in pre-school are in families with incomes below $15,000. Another twenty-seven percent of the children not attending pre-school are in families with incomes between $15,000 and $30,000. Thus, two-thirds of the children not in pre-school come from families with incomes below $30,000 (or the equivalent of about 250% of the poverty level). The chart below shows the number of children by income group.

Chart 3

Children Ages 3 to 5 Not in Pre-K or in Kindergarten by Income Group (1997)



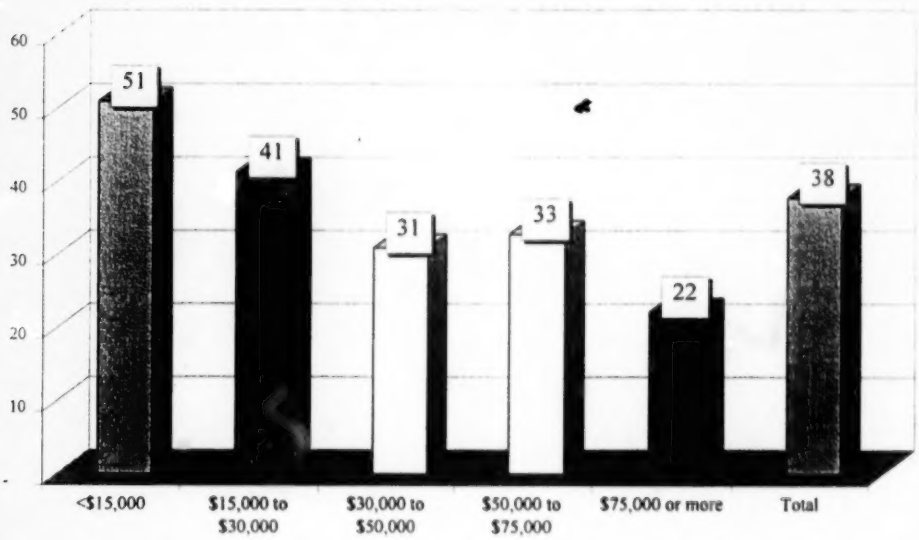
Source: California Research Bureau of the California State Library using the 1997 October Current Population Survey

Note: The data in the chart above does not add up to the figure of 650,479 shown earlier because information on family income was missing for some records.

Proportionately, the higher the family income, the higher the likelihood that the child will be in pre-school. At the lower end of the income spectrum, there are an estimated 438,000 children, ages three to five, with family incomes below $15,000. Of these, 51 percent or 222,647 are not attending pre-school or kindergarten. At the other end of the income spectrum, there are an estimated 270,000 children in families with incomes above $75,000. The percentage of children in this group not attending pre-school is 22 percent or 59,688.

Chart 4

Percent of Children Ages 3 to 5 Not in Pre-K or in Kindergarten by Income Group (1997)



Source: California Research Bureau of the California State Library using the 1997 October Current Population Survey